

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 remain in the application for consideration by the examiner. The Official action set forth an election of species requirement between the following species of inventions:

- (1) Figure 4,
- (2) Figure 6,
- (3) Figure 7, and
- (4) Figure 10.

Applicant hereby elects species (1) of figure 4 with traverse. Claims 2 and 9 read on the elected species. Claims 1 and 8 are generic claims and read on all the species. Claims 4-7, 8, and 11-14 are linking claims and should be examined together with the elected species claims 2 and 9.

Applicant respectfully requests modification of the election of species requirement. In particular, applicant respectfully submits that the species of figures 4 and 10 should be grouped together as a single species of invention. The only difference between the connector of figure 4 and that of figure 10 is that connector of figure 10 has a small slit at the end thereof forming two contact arms 19. Since the structure of the connector of figure 10 includes that shown in figure 4, applicant respectfully submits that searching the structure of the connector of figure 10 necessarily encompasses searching the structure of the connector of figure 4. Therefore, grouping figures 4 and 10 together in a single species will not place any additional searching burden on the examiner. In addition, applicant respectfully submits that the structure

shown in figure 10 is a subset of the structure shown in figure 4, because the structure shown in figure 10 includes all the structure of figure 4 plus a small slit at the end of the contact arm 18 for forming two contact arms 19. In other words, a claim directed to the structure of figure 10 can be dependent upon a claim directed to the structure of figure 4. For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully requests a modification of the election of species requirement to the following species:

- (1) Figures 4 and 10,
- (2) Figure 6, and
- (3) Figure 7,

Applicant respectfully requests an examination on the merits of claims 2 and 9, which read on the elected invention, together with linking claims 4-7, 8, and 11-14. Since it is believed that claims 2 and 9, which read on the elected invention, are allowable; applicant respectfully requests an examination of generic claims 1 and 8, together with any claims directed to other species (presently, claims 3 and 10).

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Official action mailed May 17, 2004. While it is believed that the present response places the application in condition for allowance, should the examiner have any comments or questions, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned at the below listed number to resolved any outstanding issues.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefor, as well as any other fees which may become due, may be charged to our deposit account No. 22-0256.

Respectfully submitted,
VARNDELL & VARNDELL, PLLC
(formerly Varndell Legal Group)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Eugene Varndell, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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